PFENNINGER, ANNA

DRAWER 22

Sculptors - P
(Busts)

71.2009.035.03101

Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Anna Pfenninger

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.03101

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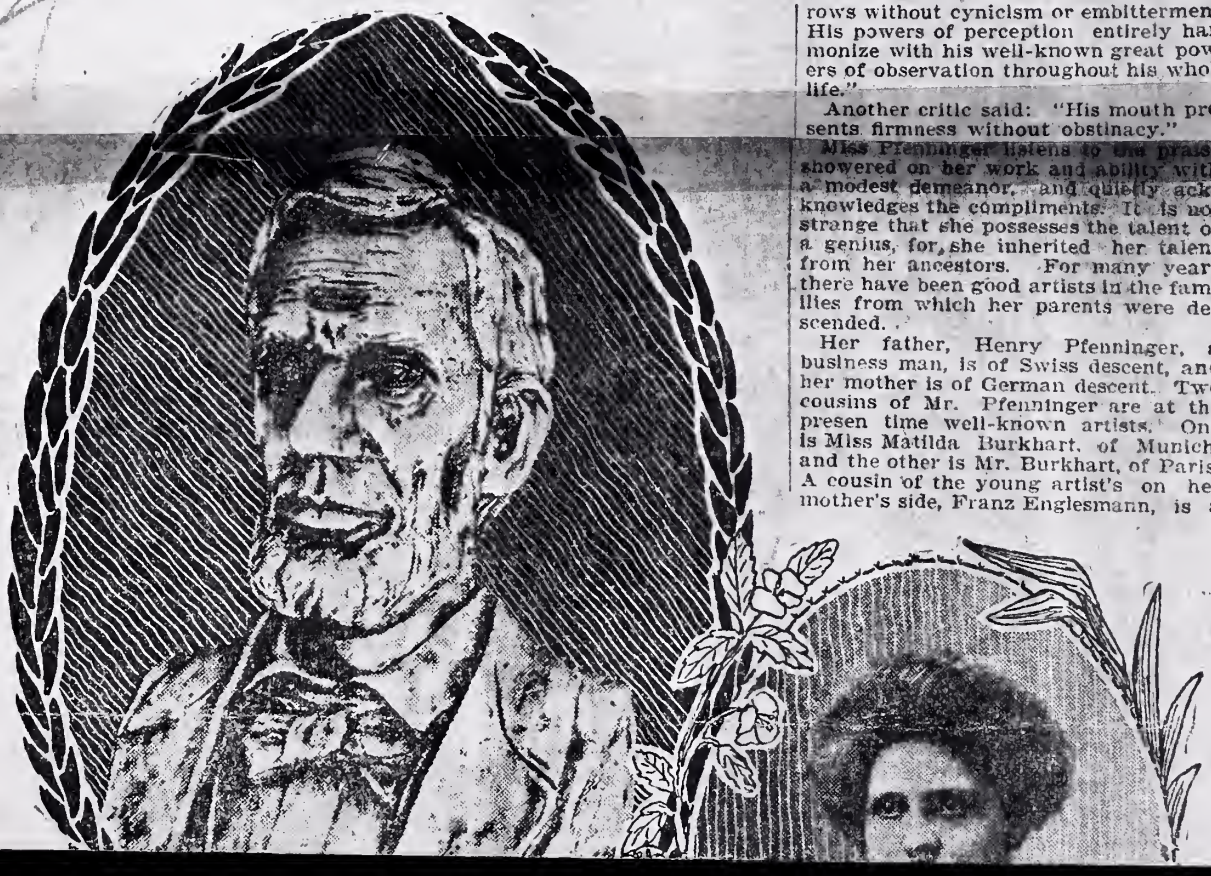
Leader. Pages 13 to 24

UARY 15, 1903. NO. 46.

CRITICS PRAISE BUST OF LINCOLN MODELED BY A CLEVELAND GIRL



rows without cynicism or embitterment. His powers of perception entirely harmonize with his well-known great powers of observation throughout his whole life."

Another critic said: "His mouth presents firmness without obstinacy."

Miss Pfenninger listens to the praise showered on her work and ability with a modest demeanor, and quietly acknowledges the compliments. It is not strange that she possesses the talent of a genius, for she inherited her talent from her ancestors. For many years there have been good artists in the families from which her parents were descended.

Her father, Henry Pfenninger, a business man, is of Swiss descent, and her mother is of German descent. Two cousins of Mr. Pfenninger are at the presen time well-known artists. One is Miss Matilda Burkhart, of Munich, and the other is Mr. Burkhart, of Paris. A cousin of the young artist's on her mother's side, Franz Englesmann, is a

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BUST OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

MISS ANNA PFENNINGER

FROM present indications a young Cleveland woman seems destined to win prominence, if not fame, in the art world. She is Miss Anna Pfenninger, of No. 79 Hayne street, on the West Side, a modest and versatile artist, who is especially gifted in modeling and composition work.

Miss Pfenninger, recently made a life size bust of Abraham Lincoln that is regarded by all critics who have seen it as a wonderful work of free art and genius. The first public exhibition of the bust was on last Thursday evening at Bethany Presbyterian Church, where Rev. John W. Malcolm, pastor of the First Congregational Church, delivered a lecture on Lincoln. As Rev. Mr. Malcolm lectured, the bust of the martyred President stood on a pedestal at his side.

"I regard this bust of Lincoln as the finest in that line I have ever seen," said Rev. Dr. Malcolm, who possesses a larger library of books on Lincoln and a larger collection of photographs of him than any other Clevelander—in fact, his collections are said to be among the largest in existence. "For twenty years I have made a special study of the life of Lincoln and his characteristics. I have seen everything in busts and pictures of him throughout the country, and I have visited the places where he lived, and I can honestly state that Pfenninger's bust of the President is a work of genius and superior to anything I have ever seen."

Miss Pfenninger made only four casts of the bust from the original model. The mold was then destroyed. To Rev. Mr. Malcolm she presented one of them, and the others she kept.

"Why, she makes Lincoln look alive," said the minister enthusiastically. "Since I have had the bust it has become an intimate companion of mine. I can't keep my eyes from it. From whatever point of view you take the bust is perfect—lifelike. It was a good gift that aided the young artist in her work. None of Lincoln's photographs breathe the same fullness of life as does this bust.

Miss Pfenninger has pictured Lincoln as he appeared at about the time of the battle of Chancellorsville, the days of gloom at the North, when he was surrounded with enemies at home and in the field, and when it seemed doubtful whether or not he could raise enough troops to continue the war—a period when the whole North seemed to waver with uncertainty.

"Look at that grand, rugged face," said Rev. Mr. Malcolm, as he pointed to the bust. "The great brow, that noble forehead, those sunny and deep eyes. The face combines power and repose. The lines combine his reflective power and his strength of character with the humor and kindliness of his nature. His face takes on the appearance of a man of sorrows, yet you see nothing of bitterness, revenge-fulness, nor despair. This bust shows Lincoln just as he looked at that time."

Observing Miss Pfenninger's work of art, another critic said, "Lincoln presents the appearance of a man of sorrows without cynicism or embitterment. His powers of perception entirely harmonize with his well-known great powers of observation throughout his whole life."

Another critic said: "His mouth presents firmness without obstinacy."

Miss Pfenninger is a young woman of modest demeanor, and quietly acknowledges the compliments. It is self-evident that she possesses the talent of a genius for, she inherited her talent from her ancestors. For many years there have been great artists in the families from which her parents were descended.

Her father, Henry Pfenninger, a builders' man, is of Swiss descent, and her mother is of German descent. Two cousins of Mr. Pfenninger are at the present time well-known artists. One is Miss Matilde Burkhart of Munich, and the other is Mr. Burkhart, of Paris. A cousin of the young artist's on her mother's side, Franz Engleemann, is a prominent sculptor and artist of Chicago, who is at present doing some work for the St. Louis Exposition.

Anna, even when she was a baby, was always showing her artistic temperament, and the neighbors of the young girl's parents have missed it as soon as she was old enough to hold a pencil she began to draw objects and astonish her and her playmates with her good drawing. It was born in her. She does her work in the kitchen or any other room that pleases her.

"Of course I am pleased that the bust has attracted such favorable criticism," said Miss Pfenninger to a Leader reporter. "I am going East in about several more years in study. No, I have no workshop or studio rather. I work in my room at home. Sometimes I work all day and all night for two or three days to make Lincoln's bust, but previous to starting work on it I had spent much time in reading books on his life and character, and studying the pictures and bust of him that Rev. Mr. Malcolm kindly loaned me.

"I was to have the honor of discovering," Pfenninger said Rev. Mr. Malcolm, while discussing the bust. "When visiting at her home, her paintings, statuary work, etc., so impressed me that I told her she must attempt something great. There's an indefinable something about her work that amounts to genius. I finally persuaded her to attempt the Lincoln bust."

Miss Pfenninger is a graduate of the Cleveland Art School, class of 1902. At present she is at work making a bust of a prominent city official of an Eastern city.

Replica of the Lincoln Bust by Pfenninger

Now in the Lincoln Collection at Washington, D.C.

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